

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-5, 8-10 and 25-31 were indicated to be allowable in the Office Action. Claim 13 has been re-written to incorporate claim 17 and claim 17 has been canceled herein without prejudice. Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form. New Claims 33-44 are presented herein. Support for these new claims is found in the original claim language and throughout the specification, as set forth below. No new matter is added by the new claims and their entry is respectfully requested.

In light of these new claims and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims to issue.

The following remarks are in response to the Official Action of November 2, 2004. The Examiner's concerns are addressed below in the order raised therein. Reconsideration in light of the remarks set forth below is respectfully requested.

I. Restriction Requirement.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the restriction requirement made in the prior Office Action mailed on July 2, 2004.

II. Indefiniteness Rejections.

A. Claims 6-7.

Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. The Examiner states that the limitation recited in claims 6-7 "said counterion" has insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to first recite "wherein said ionic liquid melt further comprising a counterion." These amendments are believed to address the Examiner's concerns and Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

B. Claim 32.

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. The Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said nucleic acid" recited in claim 32. Claim 32 has been amended to instead recite "organic polymer ion." These amendments are believed to address the Examiner's concerns and Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

III. Anticipation Rejections.

Claims 13-16, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,310,608 issued to Ishizawa et al. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17, which does not stand rejected over Ishizawa et al. Accordingly, the Examiner's concern regarding the Ishizawa et al. has been addressed since this reference no longer recites all elements of claim 13. Applicants respectfully request the rejection on this basis be withdrawn. Objections to claim 17 are addressed below.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter.

A. Claims 17-19, 21 and 23-24.

Claims 17-19, 21 and 23-24 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Furthermore, the Examiner stated that claims 17-19, 21 and 23-24 would be allowable if placed in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 17 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claim 17 has been incorporated into claim 13 (see above) and claim 17 has been canceled herein without prejudice. Thus, this amendment of claim 13 is the same as claim 17 rewritten in independent form.

Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the claim 13. Accordingly, these amendments place claim 13 and its dependent claims and claim 23 in allowable form and Applicants respectfully request that the objection made on this basis be withdrawn.

B. Claims 6, 7 and 32.

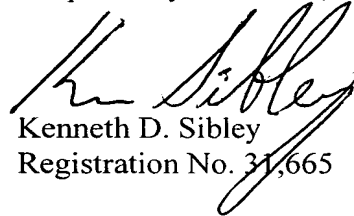
Claims 6, 7 and 32 are stated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 6, 7 and 32 have been rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph (see above). As the Examiner's concerns have been addressed, claims 6, 7, and 32 should now be in allowable form.

V. New Claims 33-44.

New claims 33-44 are presented herein to complete the record. Support for these claims is found throughout the originally presented claims and no new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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